



Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission

200 Piedmont Avenue | Suite 1416, West Tower | Atlanta, Georgia 30334

404-463-1980 | www.ethics.georgia.gov

Minutes of Commission Meeting

Regular Meeting | Thursday, April 1, 2021 at 10:00 AM

Location: Coverdell Legislative Office Building
Room 606, 18 Capitol Square
Atlanta, Ga. 30334

PRESENT:

Commission Members:

Jake Evans, Chairman
James D. Kreyenbuhl, Vice Chairman
Eric L. Barnum, Commission Member
Robert A. Watts, Commission Member
Rick Thompson, Commission Member

Commission Staff:

David Emadi, Executive Secretary
Robert Lane, Deputy Executive Secretary
Joseph Cusack, Staff Attorney
Rachel Goldberg, Staff Attorney
Jeff Morris, Legislative Liaison
Katie Easterwood, Paralegal
Chris Phelps, Paralegal
Haley Brown, Press Secretary
Erwin Yap, Office Administrator
Joel Perkins, IT
Kim Greene, Court Reporter

Office of the Attorney General:

Elizabeth Young, Assistant Attorney General

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair Evans.

A motion was made to amend the agenda to move Executive Session up to the lunch hour and move up the cases of controversy to section three.

Motioned by: Chair Evans

Seconded by: Vice Chair Kreyenbuhl

Vote: 4 to 1 carried as approved with Commissioner Barnum voting in opposition.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MEETING MINTUES:

After reviewing the proposed minutes, a motion was made to adopt the minutes from the January 7, 2021 Regular Commission meeting.

Motioned by: Chair Evans

Seconded by: Vice Chair Kreyenbul

Vote: 5 to 0 carried as approved

PRELIMINARY HEARINGS:

a) 20-0072-C In the Matter of Stacey Yvonne Abrams

The commission reviewed and considered the allegations in the following order:

Allegation 1. - Respondent violated O.C.G.A. § 21-5-33(a) when she made campaign expenditures to the Commerce Club and Delta Sky Club.

A motion was made to find that there was a violation of the campaign finance act for use of campaign funds for purchase of membership dues and the Commerce Club and Delta Sky Miles Club.

Motioned by: Chair Evans

**Motion failed for lack of a second*

A motion was made to dismiss count one of the complaint with respect to membership expenses and fees and find that probable cause does not exist.

Motioned by: Commissioner Barnum

Seconded by: Commissioner Thompson

After discussion Commissioner Barnum withdrew his motion. Discussion continued.

Commissioner Barnum renews with previous motion to find no probable cause exists to find that the campaign Act has been violated with respect to membership expenses and fees and find that probable cause does not exist.

Motioned by: Commissioner Barnum

Seconded by: Commissioner Thompson

Vote: 4 to 1 carried as approved with Chair Evans voting in opposition.

Allegation 2. - Respondent violated O.C.G.A. § 21-5-30(g) when she accepted campaign contributions prior to filing her Declaration of Intention to Accept Campaign Contributions in the amount of \$3,865.37 from Georgia NEXT and Friends of Stacey Abrams.

A motion was made to find probable cause exists that the campaign finance Act was violated when the in-kind contributions disclosed by the Abrams campaign were incurred prior to the filing of the DOI.

Motioned by: Commissioner Watts

Seconded by: Chair Evans

Vote: 4 to 1 carried as approved with Commissioner Barnum voting in opposition.

Allegation 3. - Respondent violated O.C.G.A. §§ 21-5-30(g) and 21-5-33 when she made campaign expenditures in the amount of \$21,482.69 for her campaign prior to filing her Declaration of Intention to Accept Campaign Contributions for expenditures to Delta, Alex Taxi, Hilton Hotels, Uber, and Sandler, Reiff, Lamb, Rosenstein & Birkernstock, P.C.

A motion was made to find no probable cause exists that expenditures were incurred and not disclosed prior to the filing of the DOI on May 2, 2017.

Motioned by: Commissioner Barnum

**Motion failed for lack of a second*

A motion was made as to the “non-lawyer expenses”; G Strategies, Alex Taxi, the Hilton and Uber that reasonable grounds exists to believe those were incurred, qualify as expenditures prior to the filing of the DOI on May 2, 2017 and therefore is a violation of the campaign finance Act.

Motioned by: Chair Evans

**Motion failed for lack of a second*

A motion was made to find that there are no reasonable grounds to find that the campaign finance Act was violated due to the expenditures not being incurred before the DOI..

Motioned by: Vice Chair Kreyenbul

Seconded by: Commissioner Barnum

Vote: 4 to 1 carried as approved with Chair Evans voting in opposition

Allegation 4. - Respondent violated O.C.G.A. § 21-5-34(b)(1)(D)(iv) when she failed to disclose an expenditure to Sandler, Reiff, Lamb, Rosenstein & Birkernstock, P.C. on her June 30, 2017 Campaign Contribution Disclosure Report.

A motion was made to find probable cause exists that the campaign finance Act has been violated.

Motioned by: Commissioner Thompson

Seconded by: Commissioner Watts

Vote: 4 to 1 carried as approved with Commissioner Barnum voting in opposition

b) 20-0034-C In the Matter of Kelly Glenn Robinson

This matter was continued to the next commission meeting at the request of Alvin Kendall, counsel for respondent.

ADVISORY OPINION FOR CONSIDERATION:

a) Advisory Opinion No. 2020-04

A motion was made to table this matter for further review.

Motioned by: Chair Evans

Seconded by: Commissioner Watts

Vote: 5 to 0 carried as approved

**Ms. Lewis agrees to waive time limits.*

At 2:45pm. a motion was made to enter Executive Session.

Motioned by: Chair Evans
Seconded by: Vice Chair Kreyenbuhl
Vote: 5 to 0 carried as approved

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- a) Personnel Matters pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(2).

At 3:05pm a motion was made to exit executive session and return to regular session.

Motioned by: Chair Evans
Seconded by: Commissioner Watts
Vote: 5 to 0 carried as approved

A motion was made to increase Secretary Emadi's yearly salary to \$140,000.

Motioned by: Chair Evans
Seconded by: Commissioner Watts
Vote: 5 to 0 carried as approved

**At this time Commissioner Watts excused himself from the meeting.*

CONSENT ORDERS:

The following Consent orders were presented:

- a) 20-0086-C In the Matter of Tarece Johnson

A motion was made to adopt the proposed Consent Order.

Motioned by: Chair Evans
Seconded by: Commissioner Barnum
Vote: 4 to 0 carried as approved

- b) 20-0057-C In the Matter of Montenia Edwards

A motion was made to adopt the proposed Consent Order.

Motioned by: Vice Chair Kreyenbuhl
Seconded by: Commissioner Thompson
Vote: 4 to 0 carried as approved

- c) 20-0025-C In the Matter of Rajpal Sagoo

A motion was made to adopt the proposed Consent Order.

Motioned by: Commissioner Barnum
Seconded by: Chair Evans
Vote: 4 to 0 carried as approved

- d) 20-0037-C In the Matter of Sharon Henderson

This matter was continued to the June 2021 commission meeting.

- e) 20-0040-C In the Matter of Kenneth R. "Ode" Henderson

A motion was made to adopt the proposed Consent Order.

Motioned by: Chair Evans

Seconded by: Vice Chair Kreyenbuhl

Vote: 4 to 0 carried as approved

- f) 21-0001-C In the Matter of Dexter Wimbish

A motion was made to adopt the proposed Consent Order.

Motioned by: Commissioner Barnum

Seconded by: Chair Evans

Vote: 4 to 0 carried as approved

- g) 20-0070-C In the Matter of Gary Norton

A motion was made to adopt the proposed Consent Order.

Motioned by: Vice Chair Kreyenbuhl

Seconded by: Commissioner Barnum

Vote: 4 to 0 carried as approved

ADMINISTRATIVE DISMISSALS:

- a) 20-0071-C In the Matter of Linda Smith
- b) 20-0032-C In the Matter of Karen White Ashley
- c) 20-0043-C In the Matter of Lisa Culverhouse Joseph
- d) 20-0042-C In the Matter of Linda J. Curtis
- e) 20-0047-C In the Matter of Fani Willis
- f) 20-0031-C In the Matter of Kelly S. Johnson
- g) 20-0014-C In the Matter of Carden Summers
- h) 20-0075-C In the Matter of Mary Robichaux
- i) 20-0027-C In the Matter of Gregory B. Gilstrap
- j) 20-0063-C In the Matter of Kamali Varner
- k) 20-0056-C In the Matter of Sandra Vincent

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

Executive Secretary David Emadi presented to the Commission a report on the following items:

- a) FY 2022 Budget
- b) Litigation Update
- c) New System Update
- d) Special Recognition

REPORT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Elizabeth Young gave updates as to upcoming OSAH hearings.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Doug Chalmers, via zoom, gave suggestions as to requested Advisory Opinion No. 2020-04.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Motioned by: Chair Evans

Seconded by: Commissioner Barnum

Vote: 4 to 0 carried as approved

The meeting was adjourned at 03:55 p.m.

Official Minutes Statement

The foregoing Minutes for the April 1, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission were approved and adopted by the Commission at the Commission's meeting on June 24, 2021.



Jake Evans, Chair

6/24/2021

Date